

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

E. D. M.—It is not true to say that we do not encourage short-story writers and amateur poets. What we do not like is their practising on us. We have set a very high standard for stories and poems and we mean to keep it up. Nobody has a right to be hurt if told that he or she cannot sit down and turn out good verse or good fiction as easily as water from a tap. That implies as much labor and intelligence as goes to the composition of much that we have—as a punishment for our sins—to read week after week. The postman little dreams how we hate him.

AENGUS.—Mitchel's *Jail Journal* is a book we can recommend. It has literary qualities of a high order, and it is vastly interesting. What a turn of the tables it was when last year the grandson of the Irish felon received the envoy of England in New York! Gavan Duffy's *Four Years of Irish History* is a useful book on the period. Mitchel never could stand Duffy.

J. F. M.—The cables tell the people at home that the disturbances in Egypt were due to hair-brained students, to fanatical agitators, and, to the rag-tag of the cities. Do you remember how the cables told exactly the same sort of lie about Patrick Pearse, Tom McDonagh, George Plunket, and James Connolly? You know how false the report was in one case. Make up your mind for yourself about the other. Any man who asserts that a small nation under British rule ought to have the rights for which Britain said she fought for all peoples is now called a traitor or a Bolshevik. Soon people in Britain will be divided into two classes—Bolsheviks or Sinn Féiners on the one side, and liars on the other.

FENIAN.—Your remarks do great credit to your head and heart, but the people of this country are not yet sufficiently educated to understand what you are driving at. You must have observed that yourself if you speak as you write. No doubt at all if we published your letter some unkind people would say that you had no more point than the toe of a policeman's boot. (With apologies to the *Bulletin* and the police.)

WELL-WISHER.—My dear sir, we get each week on an average four letters of advice like yours mixed up with the spring poetry and the fiction that aims at rivalling O. Henry and does not hit even Mick McQuaid. Be perfectly sure of this: the bigotry is there all the time. It is only when we Catholics fight for our rights that it is shown. It is as certain as that the sun rises that Catholics will never get fair play from a Protestant community as that the folk who go to hear Howard Elliott are just as contemptible as himself. When you kow-tow—and we hope you don't—to the bigots they smile at you and despise you. When you assert that you are a better man than any of them and that you do not care a pot of jam for them they will no longer despise you, they will not hate you less, but you will make them mad and they will reveal what they feel all the time. Do not imagine that as Catholics or as Irishmen we are ever going to prostitute our position for the sake of a few grovelling traders who try most unsuccessfully to combine the service of God and Mammon. Better specialise on either. Anyhow we wish you well. *Pax tecum!* The English for that at present is "Keep your hair on."

It's most provoking to find, after moving, that your furniture has been scratched or otherwise injured as the result of unskilled work. Get us to remove it, and ensure careful expert handling. We have letters from people in all parts of the Dominion telling us how well we have removed their furniture. The New Zealand Express Co., Ltd.

IRISH HISTORY COMPETITIONS

SUBJECTS FOR PAPERS.

1. For Junior School Children—

Relate in your own words the Story of Deirdre;

OR

Describe the Battle of Clontarf.

N.B. The story must not contain more than 600 words.

2. For Senior Pupils—

Did Pope Adrian IV. issue a Bull authorising the English King to undertake the conquest of Ireland?

OR

Describe the Golden Age of pre-Christian Ireland.

N.B. Essay limited to 1200 words.

The competitions are for children for whom the *New Zealand Tablet* is read at school or at home. Teachers are respectfully requested to get the pupils to write the essays for them and to send to our office, addressed to "The Editor," the three essays in each division which they judge to be most meritorious. Not more than three shall be forwarded for each division from any one school. Individual essays from children who have not an opportunity of attending a Catholic school will be considered. Essays must be in the *Tablet* Office by June 15.

Suitable book prizes will be posted to three children in each division whose essays are considered to be best. The winning essays will be duly published over the names of the writers in the *New Zealand Tablet*.

WEDDING BELLS

MACKLE—HAILES.

A very pretty wedding was solemnised at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Kaikoura, on Wednesday, April 30, when John Joseph Mackle, eldest son of Mr. B. Mackle, was united in the bonds of holy Matrimony to Margaret Mary, daughter of Mr. Edward J. M. Hailes, of Kaikoura. Rev. J. J. Kelly (pastor of the district) officiated. Great interest was centred in the wedding, owing to the fact that the couple were very popular and the son and daughter of two of Kaikoura's pioneers, both of whom are held in the highest respect. The church was crowded. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in a dress of white crepe-de-chine and georgette, trimmed with pearl, with long train lined with pale pink, and wore a beautiful veil of old Brussels lace. She carried a bouquet of white chrysanthemums entwined with maiden-hair fern, tinged with pink. The bride was attended by her sister, Miss Francis Hailes, who wore a dress of pale blue georgette, with hat to match, and carried a bouquet of daisies, with touches of blue. Mr. P. Mackle was best man. Miss C. Coakley (cousin of the bride) sang Gounod's "Ave Maria," and Miss Mackle (sister of the bridegroom) played Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" as the party left the church. After the ceremony about 200 guests were entertained to a wedding breakfast laid in a large marquee at the residence of the bride's parents. Mrs. Hailes made an excellent hostess, and received the guests in a manner that made everyone feel welcome. A lengthy toast list was honored. The newly wedded couple, who left later in the afternoon for the south to spend their honeymoon, were the recipients of a large number of costly and beautiful presents, including a valuable marble clock, suitably inscribed, from St. Patrick's Sports Committee, and many cheques. The bridegroom's present to the bride was a gold wristlet watch, and to the bridesmaid a handsome pendant. The bride's present to the bridegroom was a gold watch chain. The bride's travelling costume was of natter blue, with hat to match. She also wore a handsome set of fox furs.

Molly O'Moore

"MOLLY O'MOORE" is the loveliest Irish Love Song ever written.

DODD'S MUSIC STORES

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Box 121

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